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Roster of Lawyers In State Proposed As Guard on Ethics

A report now in the hands of members of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York says there is no complete and accurate register of lawyers now practicing in this state.

The statement is made in a committee report to be considered by the association's membership tonight at a meeting at 42 West 44th Street. The report urges approval of a proposed law that would require practicing lawyers in the state to register every two years. Each registration would require the payment of a \$15 fee.

The proposed legislation would create a public corporation to use some of the fee revenue for a statewide security fund to reimburse lawyers' clients who lose money through defalcation. The rest of the revenue would help pay the expenses of bar associations in disciplinary proceedings.

The members of the association are expected to approve the report, paving the way for the introduction of the proposed law to the Legislature this year.

If enacted, the measure would repeal a 1963 statute requiring only those lawyers who were admitted to practice before Sept. 1, 1963, to register and pay a \$15 fee not later than Jan. 1, 1964.

The only complete listing of lawyers at present is a massive, unalphabetized, chronological record in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals in Albany. The listings were made when the lawyers were formally admitted to practice.